Portuguese Republic

World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

Lisbon, Portugal
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES OF THE CONFERENCE

Organizational and procedural matters

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its third session, the informal consultations for the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth approved the proposed organization of work for the Conference. The provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (WCMRY/1998/2), as recommended by the informal consultations, will be submitted to the Conference for adoption. The provisional agenda for the Conference was approved by the informal consultations (see document WCMRY/1998/1).

2. The proposals contained herein have been prepared on the basis of the documents mentioned above.

I. PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS

3. The informal consultations recommended that the Conference be preceded by half-day pre-Conference consultations, which should take place at the venue of the Conference in Lisbon, on the morning of 8 August 1998.

4. The purpose of these consultations, which will be open to all participating States, is to reach a final agreement on the recommendations to be made on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with by the Conference at the opening meeting, including the election of officers, the composition of the General Committee, the adoption of the rules of procedure, the adoption of the agenda and organization of work, the appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee, the accreditation of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other youth-related organizations, and the

* WCMRY/1998/1.

arrangements for the preparation of the report of the Conference. The consultations will also permit a further exchange of views among delegations on any other outstanding procedural and/or organizational matters, as necessary.

II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. Rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (WCMRY/1998/2) provides that the Conference shall elect from among the representatives of participating States the following officers: a President, 27 Vice-Presidents, an ex officio Vice-President from the host country, a Rapporteur-General, and a Chairperson for the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46. These officials should be elected on the basis of ensuring the representative character of the General Committee composed in accordance with rule 11. The Conference may also elect such other officers as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

6. Rule 11 provides that the Conference will have a General Committee composed of the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Rapporteur-General and the Chairperson of the Main Committee. The 27 Vice-Presidents would be distributed according to the following geographical pattern: seven representatives from African States, six from Asian States, three from Eastern European States, five from Latin American and Caribbean States, and six from Western European and other States.

7. Regional groups should endeavour to ensure that they will be in a position to make known their nominations for the posts in the General Committee at the pre-Conference consultations.

III. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

8. The Conference will have before it the provisional rules of procedure contained in document WCMRY/1998/2.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The informal consultations recommended for adoption by the Conference the provisional agenda set out in document WCMRY/1998/1.

V. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Establishment of the Main Committee

10. In accordance with the recommendations of the informal consultations, it is proposed that the Conference organize its work around a plenary, a Main Committee and working groups.

11. It is proposed that the Main Committee of the Conference meet from the morning of 9 August to the afternoon of 11 August. The Chairperson of the Main Committee will be elected by the Conference in accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference. It is recommended that agreement be reached on the slate of candidates for posts falling within the ambit of the Main Committee before the opening of the

Conference, thus permitting election by acclamation and dispensing with the requirement for a secret ballot.

12. The Main Committee will be responsible for the preparation of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, which will be adopted by the Conference in plenary.

B. Establishment of working groups

13. Working groups, opened to the participation of all accredited participants, will be established in accordance with the following themes for discussion and will meet simultaneously with the plenary sessions:

(a) National youth policies of an intersectoral nature;

(b) Relevance of the three themes of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace;

(c) Social development and major priority issues for action: education, employment, health, drug abuse and others.

C. Allocation of items

14. It is proposed that items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the provisional agenda be considered in plenary and that item 11 also be allocated to the Main Committee. The working groups will consider the themes enumerated in item 9 of the provisional agenda.

D. General exchange of views

15. The plenary will allow for a general exchange of views on item 9 of the provisional agenda.

16. It is proposed that oral statements presented in the plenary during the Conference should not exceed seven minutes, it being understood that full-length statements may be circulated in writing. No delegation will be allowed to speak more than once during the general exchange of views during this segment of the Conference.

E. Timetable for the work of the Conference

17. The proposed timetable for the work of the Conference is contained in the annex to the present note. It is understood that the Main Committee will adjust its organization of work as required.

F. Organization of meetings

18. The resources available to the Conference allow for a maximum of two simultaneous meetings in the morning and two in the afternoon, with interpretation facilities, including committees, working groups and informal consultations. Interpretation facilities can be provided to regional group

meetings only when these are held in place of formal meetings or if these facilities are otherwise available.

19. In accordance with the provisions of rule 48 of the provisional rules of procedure, the Conference and the Main Committee may establish such working groups as they deem necessary for the performance of their functions. It should be noted, however, that committees, subcommittees and working groups can be established only to the extent permitted by the conference service facilities available at the Conference site.

20. Meetings will normally be scheduled from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. In order to ensure the most efficient use of available resources, it is essential that all meetings start promptly at the time scheduled.

VI. CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE: APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

21. Rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure provides that a Credentials Committee of nine members shall be appointed at the beginning of the Conference and that its composition shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fifty-second session.

22. At the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, the Credentials Committee was composed of Argentina, Barbados, Bhutan, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Zambia.

VII. REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

23. In accordance with previous practice followed at United Nations conferences, it is recommended that the report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference, a brief account of the proceedings and a repertorial account of the work of the Main Committee and working groups, and of the action taken in plenary on their recommendations.

Annex

PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Saturday, 8 August		
9.30 a.m.-1 p.m.		Pre-Conference consultations
		PLENARY
Saturday, 8 August		
3 p.m.	Item 1	Opening of the Conference
	Item 2	Election of the President
	Item 3	Adoption of the rules of procedure
	Item 4	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
	Item 5	Election of officers other than the President
	Item 6	Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference
	Item 7	Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
		(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee
Sunday, 9 August		
9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 9	General exchange of views on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond
Monday, 10 August		
9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 9	General exchange of views (continued)
Tuesday, 11 August		
9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Item 9	General exchange of views (continued)
Wednesday, 12 August		
9.30 a.m.	Item 9	General exchange of views (concluded)

Wednesday, 12 August		
3 p.m.	Item 11	Adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes
	Item 12	Adoption of the report of the Conference
	Closure of the Conference	
		MAIN COMMITTEE
Sunday, 9 August		
9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Election of officers
		Organization of work
		Adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes: Goals and Principles, Commitments and Global Plan of Action
Monday, 10 August Tuesday, 11 August		
9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Adoption of the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes: Goals and Principles, Commitments and Global Plan of Action (continued and concluded)
Wednesday, 12 August		
9.30 a.m.		Adoption of the report of the Main Committee
		WORKING GROUPS
Sunday, 9 August		
9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Election of officers
		Organization of work
		Working group on national youth policies of an international nature
Monday, 10 August		
9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.		Working group on the relevance of the three themes of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace

Tuesday, 11 August

9.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.	Working group on social development and major priority issues for action: education, employment, health, drug abuse and others

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